



City of La Porte

Established 1892

Police Department

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the Texas Association of Police Chiefs



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Big shoes to fill as LPPD's Ermel retires



Following a 22-year career with La Porte Police Department, Sergeant Steve Ermel will now enter the private sector as a police retiree. And while his absence will be felt quite strongly, the agency has been the benefactor of over two decades of genuine dedication and commitment to the field of Law Enforcement.

Ermel began his career with the La Porte Police Department in 1993. Initially assigned to the Patrol Division, he attained the additional roles of Field Training Officer (FTO), S.W.A.T. team member, and Bicycle Patrol Officer. During his time as patrolman Steve received various awards and commendations to include the Department's Medal of Valor in 1997.

In 1998, he was appointed to the rank of Detective and entered the Criminal Investigations Division, where his primary duties included the investigation of Delinquent Juvenile Activities and various Forgery offenses. While serving in the division, he also performed a broad range of other investigate duties until his promotion to Sergeant in 2000.

Upon promoting, Sergeant Ermel was initially assigned to the Patrol Division where he began his supervisory calling as a Night Shift Patrol Sergeant. In addition to his primary patrol duties, he also assumed the additional responsibilities as the department's S.W.A.T. supervisor, Field Training Supervisor, Range officer, and was later designated as the department's first Taser Coordinator, where he was responsible for authoring the agency's initial Taser policy and procedures directive. In 2007, Steve was appointed as the department's Physical Fitness Coordinator and was instrumental in preparing and presenting the inception of a Fitness Program to the La Porte Civil Service Commission for approval.

In 2008, Sergeant Ermel was appointed to lead the department's newly created Street Crimes Division. As the Street Crimes Sergeant, Ermel supervised a select group of detectives who addressed the areas of Code Enforcement, Narcotic-related activities, Gang-related activities,



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Burglary-related activities, Asset Forfeiture/Seizure procedures, and various other Sting Operations. He and his assigned detectives assisted the efforts of Patrol and the Criminal Investigations Division, by communicating with other agencies regarding shared intelligence, and directing efforts toward addressing incoming communications (clues) by individual citizens.

In 2014, Steve returned to the Patrol Division for his final tour-of-duty as a shift supervisor, while also re-assuming his role as Field Training Supervisor. Due to the development, implementation, and maintenance of the Physical Fitness Program, Sergeant Ermel was subsequently awarded the Department's Medal of Meritorious Service in 2015. Interestingly, and in-step with his history of trailblazing performance, Ermel was selected as the agency's Fall 2015 employee of the quarter for his work with the FTO program. A timely and truly genuine honor given the award submission was delivered prior to his retirement announcement.

In his career, Steve acquired a vast amount of Law Enforcement training experience, including certifications by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (T.C.O.L.E.) as a Police Firearms Instructor, Law Enforcement Academic Instructor, and Master Peace Officer.

Ermel will now enter the private business sector, while simultaneously completing a degree in Business Administration, but will continue to keep a key love at the forefront of his life – time with his wife and children. LPPD's loss is certainly their gain, yet the department was fortunate to have him on loan for the past 22 years.